SECRETARY TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 30 MAY 1923

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Thursday the 29th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table copies of the * Proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee held on the 22nd March 1923 as well as copies of † Appropriation Report for 1921–22.

II

THE HON. THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE HOLDING OF MEETING DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before I begin with the proceedings, I think it will be convenient if I ask the House to reconsider the decision it arrived at yesterday. There is apparently some dissatisfaction among hon. Members over this decision. Though, of course, it is a decision which the House has already arrived at, still it is a matter for consideration whether we may not defer to-morrow's sitting. Some hon. Members require a holiday to-morrow on account of Good Friday and, after all, we might reasonably defer to their wishes."

Mr. M. SURYANARAYANA :—" Is it not possible to adjourn the meeting to some day later than Monday ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" No. I think we had better rest to-morrow and the day after. Government will require some time to check the whole of the Bill as amended, so that, in case there are consequential amendments, they may be incorporated in the Bill before it is passed. For this purpose they may require a couple of days. So far as I am able to say, I think the Bill will have been gone through by Tuesday evening, as we have still three days including to-day in which to finish the Bill."

The House agreed to reconsider its previous decision and to refrain from sitting on Good Friday.

III

FURTHER DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1923–24.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before this order of the day is taken up, I think I should inform the House that I considered the question of the disposal of the point of order raised by the hon. Member, Mr. Narasimha Raju, namely, that these demands raise a question substantially identical with others on which the House had already given its decision. Hon. Members will have to see whether the issues are substantially the same. The Standing Order says that if a certain matter has been discussed and disposed of, the House shall not be asked to go over the same ground during the same session. Now, with reference to these Budget motions, while it will not be open to the Government to move for the same grant or to ask for anything that has been voted against, what happened in certain cases last year and the year before was that they asked for supplementary grants for the purpose of winding up particular departments and offices which had been voted down by the House. I think such demands may not come within the purview of the Standing

* Vide Appendix on page 3082 infra. † Printed separately.